

Camp Christian J. Alan and Mary Louise Gibson Lodge Dedicated Endowment Provides Perpetual Funding for Maintenance

In April 2020, J. Alan and Mary Louise Gibson established an endowment at the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation to benefit future maintenance and repairs for the new Gibson Lodge at Camp Christian in Choteau. Thanks to generous gifts from many friends of the camp and Disciples churches, the sleek, modern Gibson Lodge was constructed on camp property. The new Lodge replaces the former Howard Lodge that burned to the ground on Good Friday morning in March 2018.

Due to the pandemic and social distancing requirements last year and this year, construction of the lodge took a bit longer than anticipated and the dedication of the new building wasn't held until recently. On Saturday, May 22, 2021, the 4,500 square-foot J. Alan and Mary Louise Gibson Lodge was formally dedicated on the campgrounds in the presence of friends and family. The worship gathering included violin music by Andrei Tone; a greeting from Rev. Anna Hubbard, Camp Christian Board Chair; prayer and dedication of purpose; scripture reading; chalking ceremony; and camp history from Rev. Dan Bubach, camp Director.



J. Alan and Mary Louise Gibson

Longtime members of First Christian Church, Tulsa, the Gibsons have been active in the life of the Disciples church and have been strong supporters of Camp Christian. J. Gibson's first summer camp experience was at Camp Christian where he found a passion for Christ and the camp.

Over many years, the Gibsons have participated in camp activities and generously given gifts to support the camp and its ministry. Additionally, J. has faithfully served on the camp Board of Directors for over two decades and was instrumental in fund-raising for the new building.

The Gibson Lodge is their legacy for future generations of campers. In addition, the Gibsons have given a perpetual gift through their endowment to assure sufficient funds are available to maintain, repair and keep up the appearance of the new lodge through the years.

The Gibsons have made a commitment to add to their endowment on a regular basis. However, the blessing of establishing a permanent endowment at ODF is that others may make gifts to the endowment to support the same mission and grow the fund. Anyone who has passion for Camp Christian can make a tax-deductible gift to the Camp Christian J. Alan and Mary Louise Gibson Lodge Endowment. Donations may be made online at www.okdfd.org/donation (be sure to scroll down in the select funds field and click Camp Christian J. Alan and Mary Louise Gibson Lodge Endowment). Or, checks may be mailed to the Foundation with the fund noted in the memo line.



Gibson Lodge dedicated on Saturday, March 22, 2021, at Camp Christian in Choteau.

*"We bring peace to this lodge and to all
who will live, work and play here."*

Other Foundation Endowment Funds Benefiting Oklahoma Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Camps and Scholarships for Campers

- [Camp & Conference Resources](#)
 - [Camp & Conference Secretary](#)
 - [Camp Christian Capital](#)
 - [Camp Christian Operations](#)
 - [Camp Christian Scholarship](#)
- [Central Oklahoma Camp and Conference Center](#)
 - [First Christian Church, Ada, Oklahoma Endowment](#)
 - [Friendship Camp](#)
 - [Oklahoma Disciple Men Leave No Child Behind](#)
- [Texoma Christian Camp](#)
 - [Texoma Christian Camp Scholarship](#)

In addition, several churches that have closed have established permanent endowment funds at the Foundation that partially benefit Disciple camps.

First Christian Church, Ada, Oklahoma, Leaves Keys and Opens Door to Future

Last August, the First Christian Church of Ada, Oklahoma, handed the keys of their church building over, but opened the doors to a legacy gift in the form of two permanent endowment funds to support the passions of the congregation. With proceeds from the sale of the church building, remaining church members established the First Christian Church of Ada, Oklahoma Endowment fund to benefit the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation grants program and the First Christian Church of Ada Endowment fund to benefit Texoma Christian Camp.

First Christian Church, Ada, was organized in the summer of 1901, and the first church building was constructed in 1902. The congregation grew and a larger church space became necessary. In 1920, land was purchased just south of the original building and the new church was completed in 1927. The congregation continued to grow steadily, and by 1966, they were greatly in need of additional meeting space. An expansion project added the Fellowship Hall and Youth Activity Room, and the existing building was updated.

Over the years, the church was actively part of the larger church, including hosting the State Convention of Christian Churches in 1933; participating in District 10 and Southeast Area meetings; joining the Ardmore and Durant churches to purchase Texoma Christian Camp in 1949; and the minister was instrumental in the establishment of the Oklahoma Christian Home in 1953.

From the beginning, the members of First Christian Church, Ada, were devoted to service and ministry. They sponsored Boy Scout Troop 4 for 97 years; had annual Spring Break Mission Trips for many years; and had a very successful LOGOS youth program for over 10 years. Other outreach included Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Clothes Closet, Food Bank, and supporting Campus Ministry, the Youth Shelter, and the Back to School Basics (supplies) program.

As the congregation decreased in number and their demographic profile changed, the remaining members could no longer physically or financially support these ongoing ministries. After many meetings



First Christian Church, Ada, Oklahoma

and prayers, the congregation voted to close the church and sell the property. Their final service was held on October 12, 2019, and the building was sold in August 2020.

Those establishing the Ada endowments wrote, "We have truly been blessed, and we are happy to know that our investment in First Christian Church can go forward and bless others."

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The Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Email Julie Bowers (jbowers@okdfd.org) to opt out or advise of any errors, changes, or to update your email and contact information. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this publication.

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Mail this form and check to the Foundation at the address listed above. Or, gifts may be made via PayPal or credit card online at our website listed above.

THANK YOU!

☐ I am interested in establishing a permanent endowment to benefit a heartfelt cause or church mission.

☐ I am interested in receiving information on making a bequest to the Foundation.

*Gifts to Oklahoma Disciples Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Gifts may be made to a specific Endowment Fund or to Disciple Club. A list of funds is available on the Foundation website at www.okdfd.org. We are grateful for your gifts, support and prayers.

**I/We Wish to Make a Tax-deductible Gift to:
Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Yes! Please sign me up for email news updates.

My gift is given in (honor/memory) of:
circle one

Name: _____

YES! I would like to make a gift to ODF in the amount of:

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Please invest my gift in:

☐ Disciple Club supporting ODF Operations.

☐ Named Endowment Fund as listed below:

(Please list fund name)

☐ Yes, I have included ODF in my estate planning. Please call me to discuss my wishes.